

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 14, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, claims 9, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004-0022050 to Yamashita. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,252,733 to Norman. Applicant amends claim 9 to more particularly recite features of the invention believed inherent in the claim as previously presented.

The rejection of claims 9-12 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 9-12 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “first and second light sources at both sides of the light-guiding plate to emit light; [and] optical fibers separately surrounding the circumference of the first and second light sources” (claim 9). None of the cited references including Yamashita and Norman, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The structure of claim 9 of the present invention is different from the Yamashita structure in that Yamashita does not disclose or suggest “optical fibers separately surrounding the circumference of the first and second light sources”. Yamashita discusses with reference to FIG. 13, “there is available a method of using an optical fiber array 32 where plastic optical fibers (POF) are arrayed. In this case, while a diameter of the optical fiber depends on a thickness of the light guide 6 used, use of an optical fiber having a smaller diameter is advantageous for realizing an array of more uniform and small divided light sources. Thus, if the optical fiber array 32 is used, the LED 30 can be arranged in a desired position because the optical fiber array is flexible, and a more compact liquid crystal display device can be constructed” (Yamashita, para. [148]). However, Yamashita does not disclose or suggest “optical fiber separately surrounding the circumference of the first and second light sources”. By way of example, the fibers in the array 32 do not separately surround LEDs 30. Furthermore, use of optical fibers having the diameters disclosed in Yamashita would not be capable of “surrounding

the circumference" of a light source such as an LED. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 as amended and claims 10-12, which depend from claim 9, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
George G. Ballas  
Registration No.: 52,587  
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP  
1900 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 496-7500  
Attorneys for Applicant